THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Strike by Chemists

1880. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the Chemists who supply medicines to various CGHS dispensaries in Delhi against indented prescriptions, remained on strike during the last two yars, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for their strike;

(c) whether Government are aware that non-supply of essential medicines cause great problems to CGHS beneficiaries especially pensioners; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The information is given beolw:—

(1) During 2001:— Nil

(2) During 2002:—

(i) 21.1.2002 to 25.1.2002—Due to delayed payment of their bills.

(ii) 1.4.2002 to 12.4.2002—Due to delayed payment of their bills and withholding of 10% of their bills on account of Sales Tax.

(iii) 1.11.2002 to till date—Due to withholding of 10% amount from their bills on account of Sales Tax and delayed payment of their pending bills by the CGHS. The issue is under reference to the C&AG.

(c) and (d) At present, the availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries is not adequate. Due to the ongoing strike of the authorised local chemists of CGHS Delhi, the beneficiaries have been allowed to purchase the medicines from open market and get reimbursement of the expenses incurred on this account from the Govt. Arrangements have also been made for making reimbursement to CGHS pensioner beneficiaries in the concerned CGHS dispensary itself.

In the present context, steps have been taken to procure generic as well as proprietary medicines through the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (India) Limited. The supplies have already started arriving in CGHS Delhi.

Criteria for procurement of medicine by CGHS dispensaries

1881. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the CGHS dispensaries in procurement of medicines from the agencies;

(b) whether any study has been conducted on the quality of medicine supplied to the CGHS dispensaries by these agencies in New Delhi/Delhi; and

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the action being taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The bulk purchase of medicines for CGHS are normally made through the Medical Stores Organisation (MSO) of the Dte. GHS.

In cases where the MSO is not able to supply medicines or the Govt. specialist prescribes medicines outside the Govt. formulary, the CGHS procures the same based on the individual prescription of the beneficiaries from the authorised local chemists appointed by the CGHS. In the case of urgently needed drugs, authority slips are issued to the beneficiaries for immediate procurement through the authorised local chemist.

(b) No, Sir. The MSO gets each and every batch of the medicine subjected to tests from two Govt. approved laboratories to ensure that quality medicines are supplied to CGHS and other indenters. The question of supplying duplicate/fake medicines by the MSO does not arise.

On receipt of complaints from the CGHS beneficiaries, the particular medicine is sent to the Government Drug Testing Laboratory/Private Laboratories and if on testing, the drug is found to be of substandard quality, then its supply to the beneficiaries is immediately stopped and